



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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JERRY E. POWERS
Chief Probation Officer

March 25, 2014

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Jerry E. Powers 
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **FEASIBILITY OF RETAINING CAMP KILPATRICK SPORTS PROGRAM AT CAMP FRED MILLER OR ANOTHER LOCATION (ITEM 69, AGENDA OF MARCH 18, 2014)**

On March 18, 2014, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, your Board instructed the Chief Probation Officer to report back in one week as to the feasibility of retaining the Camp Kilpatrick Sports Program as is, including baseball and track, if possible, at Camp Fred Miller (CFM) or another location, until such time as a study is completed and recommendations can be made about improving and enhancing sports for all youth in juvenile camps.

BACKGROUND

On August 28, 2012, your Board directed the Chief Probation Officer, with the assistance of the Chief Executive Officer, to commission a study to evaluate the merits of intermural sports activities as programming for incarcerated youth at Camp Vernon Kilpatrick (CVK). In addition, the Board amended the motion to include a comparison of outcomes based on sports programs similar to the study done on Homeboy Industries, including an analysis of programming beyond activities. A consortium of researchers from California State University, Los Angeles, the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles, was engaged to conduct the study of the Sports Program.

On December 3, 2013, your Board adopted a design-build delivery approach for the construction of the new facility at Camp Kilpatrick as presented by the Department of Public Works, which resulted in time savings of fifteen (15) months. As a result of the

compressed timeline, the demolition activities at CVK were scheduled to begin in March 2014, thereby presenting the need to vacate all staff and youth.

Due to the demolition, the Camp will be closed on March 31, 2014. Consequently, in December 2013, CVK was removed from new youth admissions, and no new youth have been assigned since that time. As a result, the Camp population has been reduced to twenty (20) youth. These youth have been assessed by mental health and program staff and are being reassigned to appropriate treatment camps beginning March 26, 2014 and ending March 28, 2014. All youth will be removed from the facility prior to the closure of the camp on March 31, 2014. We previously notified the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) that the Sports Program has been suspended for the 2014 Spring Baseball and Track seasons. The program has not participated in any baseball or track events during this spring season due to the impending closure of the facility.

As reflected in my March 17, 2014 report to your Board, it is my intention to have the sports program resume for the fall 2014 sports season. We have been informed by CIF that resumption of sports programming for the fall season can be accomplished by simply notifying them of our intent. Pursuant to our discussion of March 17, we will need to make several programming changes and enhancements to the program to bring the recidivism outcomes in line with our other programs. We will provide staff with additional training in the area of evidence-based programming approaches as well as evaluation of youth criteria for selection to the program and other areas as identified in the program evaluation research report. It is our intention to complete the program changes and staff training enhancements during the April to June months and resume the program in July of 2014. This will allow for a full practice period and ramp up for full participation in the fall sports season.

CONTINUATION OF CAMP KILPATRICK SPORTS PROGRAM AT CAMP MILLER OR ANOTHER CAMP LOCATION

Review of Operational Facilities

After careful review of the twelve (12) currently operational facilities, it was determined that relocation of the Sports Program to Camp Miller or any other currently operational facility would not be a viable option as it would require relocation of Probation staff currently assigned to Camp Miller, youth and the corresponding interruption of programming and services to those youth. Additionally, there is limited sleeping quarters, storage space for sports equipment and limited workspace for Probation and partner agency staff. These would also be issues for all other currently operating facilities. Additionally, Miller is one of our better operating facilities with respect to DOJ outcomes and compliance.

Review of Non-Operational Facilities

Currently, there are five (5) non-operational (temporarily closed) Camp facilities (Resnick, Scobee, Smith, Routh and Holton) that could accommodate the Sports Program, of which Camp Holton is the most viable as it is a self-contained facility with a gymnasium and adequate space for the sports teams to train and practice. However, this option would require the Fire Department to relocate its current programming, including relocating California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) inmates.

Most Feasible Camp Site

After considerable review, the most feasible alternative would be to retain the Sports Program at Challenger Memorial Youth Center (CMYC) as the facility currently has three (3) closed Camps, two (2) gymnasiums, adequate field space for the sports teams to train and practice as well as sufficient sleeping quarters and workspace. Additionally, youth will have access to the enhanced academic programming at CMYC as stipulated by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Agreement, which provides opportunities to participate in the Career Technical Education programming, and enhanced credit recovery program at the site.

Given the currently vacant camp, the program can be integrated into the overall programs at CMYC with little or no disruption to current programming. We will work with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and our other partner agencies to provide sufficient lead time for the placement of their staff to support the sports program. Lastly, the selection of CMYC will not result in a change of leagues for the sports program.

Next Steps for Continuation of the Sports Program for Fall of 2014

During the next three (3) months (April, May, June), the Department will take the following steps to ensure the continuation of the Sports Program for the Fall of 2014 sports season:

- Notify CIF of the intent to transfer the program to another Camp facility
- Transfer Sports Program and staff to CMYC
- Provide enhanced training in evidence-based programming to compliment the Sports Program
- Develop a schedule that supports the Sports Program, including rehabilitative services and academic programming
- Identify youth through the Camps Multi-Disciplinary Assessment (MDA) for participation in the Sports Program

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CONCLUSION

Probation will continue to work with our partners, including the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Health Services (DHS) and LACOE on the continuation of the Sports Program in the Fall of 2014.

Please contact me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Felicia Cotton, Deputy Chief, Juvenile Institutions, at (562) 940-2526.

JEP:fc

c: Michael Nash, Presiding Judge, Juvenile Court
William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Brence Culp, Chief Deputy, Chief Executive Officer
Mitchell H. Katz, Director, Department of Health Services
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Arturo Delgado, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education
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